

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph **[0005]** with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0005] In one preferred implementation, the first annular member is fixedly coupled to a support structure so as to be non-movable. The second annular member, however, is supported along a rotationally moving structure. Optical input signals input into the first optical fibers ~~[[and]]~~ are transmitted to the outermost ends of the first optical fibers and are able to be coupled into the outermost ends of the second optical fibers as the second annular member rotates. Accordingly, no physical contact occurs between the first optical fibers and the second optical fibers. Furthermore, the present invention allows the optical coupling between the first and second groups of optical fibers to be accomplished without implementing any electrical components that require the optical signal from the first group of optical fibers to be converted from an optical to an electrical signal, and then back into an optical signal.

Please replace Paragraph **[0034]** with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0034] With brief reference to Figure ~~[[6]]~~ 7, an alternative preferred coupling member 70 is illustrated that embodies this feature. Annular coupling member 70 is formed from semi-circular coupling components 72 and 74 that are placed adjacent one another to form the optical coupler member 70. A slight spacing is illustrated between the two members 72 and 74 to better illustrate that these are formed as separate components. In practice, components 72 and 74 are preferably placed in physical

contact such that no gap exists therebetween, and are secured by adhesives or by any suitable hose-type clamp or other suitable securing means.